

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-24 are pending in the application. Claim 5 has been canceled, and claim 24 newly added.

Drawing Objections

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). The objections to the drawings either lack foundation or are moot in view of the foregoing amendment, and should be withdrawn in view of the following remarks.

The claims recite that the cover is “deformable,” not “deformed” as thought by the examiner. Figure 5 shows how the cover is deformable by illustrating an exemplary path of deformation shown by broken line 29 (see paragraph [0051]). The recitation of “deformable” in claims 1 and 4 is shown in the drawings.

Claim 5 has been canceled, and the objection that the drawings must show the features of claim 5 is therefore moot.

The tapered shape (claim 7), the frusto-conical shape (claim 8), and the base configuration claimed in claim 18 are all illustrated in Figure 5, which shows a tapered shape that is frusto-conical, and which shows how the base end is secured to the immersion suit at reference numerals [11] and [13]. The circular head end (claim 10) and the circular cross-section (claim 11) are clearly visible in Figure 4.

Reference numeral 104 in the specification has been changed to “4” for consistency with the drawings, rendering that objection to the drawings moot.

The reference numeral near the top of Figure 5 should read “21,” as shown more clearly on the attached sheet.

Specification

The specification has been amended to more clearly show proper usage of the “GORE-TEX®” trademark.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4, 6, 10, 14-17, and 19-23 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,210,879 (Miller). Claims 5, 7-9, 11-13, and 18 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim,

but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 5, originally dependent on claim 1, has been canceled and its features expressly incorporated into claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore deemed allowable. All of claims 2-4 and 6-23 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore deemed allowable as depending from an allowable claim. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-23 is therefore requested.

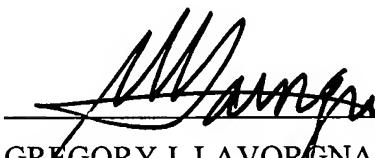
New claim 24 is similar to claim 1, and recites that the first shape recites a bore. Claim 24 is deemed allowable over the art of record because Miller does not show a valve cover being deformable from a first shape to a second shape on action of an external force, where the first shape defines a bore and where, when the cover adopts the second shape, it substantially protects at least a portion of the valve from the external force. In contrast, Miller shows a tubular valve 23 and a valve cover 16 in the form of a flap (*col. 2, l. 58*). The valve cover 16 does not define a bore, as claimed.

Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, and the specification and drawings, are now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of all objections and rejections, and allowance of claims 1-4 and 6-24, are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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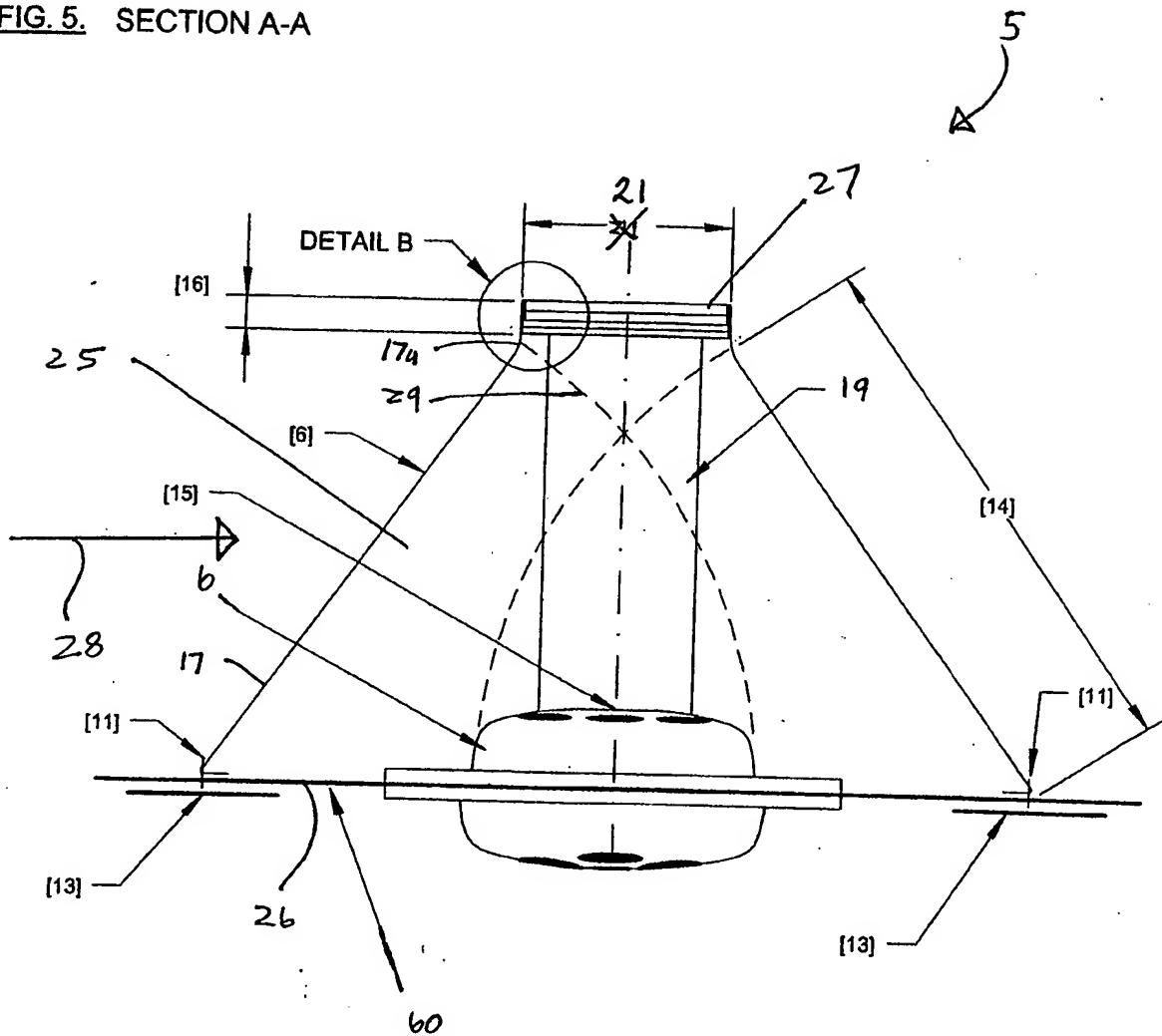
APPENDIX

ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES



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FIG. 5. SECTION A-A



In the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 5. This sheet replaces the original sheet containing Figure 5. In Figure 5, reference numeral 21 near the top of the figure is now clearly shown.